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**HOUSE MEMORIAL 39**

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Nathan P. Cote**

**A MEMORIAL**

**SUPPORTING THE COMPLETION OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NATIONAL  
SCENIC TRAIL.**

**WHEREAS, congress established and designated the  
continental divide national scenic trail on November 10, 1978  
under the authority of the National Trails System Act; and**

**WHEREAS, the continental divide national scenic trail is  
a nationally significant resource linking federal, state and  
private lands from Mexico to Canada for over three thousand  
one hundred miles along the continental divide, and provides  
long-distance backcountry trail experiences for hikers and  
equestrians; and**

**WHEREAS, the continental divide national scenic trail  
will travel approximately six hundred fifty miles through  
western New Mexico and create significant public benefits for**

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1 the state by connecting communities, promoting recreation and  
2 healthy lifestyles, stimulating tourism and economic  
3 development and educating the public about the natural,  
4 historic and cultural resources along the trail; and

5 WHEREAS, the 2004 statewide comprehensive outdoor  
6 recreation plan identified trails as the number one recreation  
7 priority for the public in New Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, across the United States, trails are important  
9 components of recreation, tourism, economic development,  
10 conservation, alternative transportation, education and health  
11 and fitness strategies; and

12 WHEREAS, the State Trails System Act authorizes the  
13 secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources to  
14 establish and designate trails on lands under the jurisdiction  
15 of a federal agency when, in the opinion of the federal agency  
16 and the secretary, such lands may be developed under the  
17 provisions of federal law; and

18 WHEREAS, the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
19 resources may enter into written cooperative agreements for  
20 joint federal-state administration of any New Mexico component  
21 of the national trails system, provided such agreements for  
22 administration of land uses are not less restrictive than  
23 those set forth in the State Trails System Act; and

24 WHEREAS, the completion of the continental divide  
25 national scenic trail will require the cooperation and

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1 commitment of diverse local, state, federal, tribal and  
2 private entities;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the  
5 continental divide national scenic trail be a project of  
6 statewide and national significance that should be completed  
7 as soon as possible for the benefit of present and future  
8 generations; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state assist the affected  
10 local, state, federal, tribal and private entities in the  
11 completion of the New Mexico segment of the continental divide  
12 national scenic trail; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division of  
14 the energy, minerals and natural resources department serve as  
15 the lead state agency involved in the completion of the  
16 continental divide national scenic trail, and that the state  
17 land office should also support this effort; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house of representatives  
19 support completion of the continental divide national scenic  
20 trail by providing, to the extent possible, funding to the  
21 energy, minerals and natural resources department to  
22 facilitate planning, environmental compliance, route  
23 designation, construction and maintenance; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division of  
25 the energy, minerals and natural resources department and the

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1 state land office be requested to partner with the federal  
2 bureau of land management, the United States forest service,  
3 the national park service and other local, tribal and private  
4 entities in the completion of the continental divide national  
5 scenic trail in New Mexico; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional  
7 delegation be requested to support completion of the  
8 continental divide national scenic trail by seeking  
9 appropriate federal funding support; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
12 resources, the commissioner of public lands and the members of  
13 the New Mexico congressional delegation.